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SOURCE Zeri i Popullit.CRITICISM OF PARTY WORK AT RRETH PARTY MEETINGS IN ALBANIA

Summary: Zeri i Popullit, official party organ, published a number of accounts of local party meetings during May 1952. These meetings discussed the lack of internal party democracy, weak party work, the need for increased party leadership, and party stimulation of agriculture. The paper's account of the meetings follows.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.⁷

Vlore Rreth

The Vlore Rreth Party Committee unanimously approved the resolutions of the Second Party Congress, as presented by Rapo Dervishi, member of the central committee, at a meeting early in May.

He declared that almost all economic enterprises fulfilled their production plans ahead of schedule; the workers successfully fulfilled the plan for olive collection.

In addition, the active discussed the strengthening of the people's councils. It was stated that greater strengthening and democratization of the people's councils depended on the work of the party organization in activating people's councils, and increasing the participation of the masses in the problems of the councils.

The active criticized the weaknesses which were found in the people's councils. Facts were given which proved that at certain times the executive committee of the rreth people's council did not understand what the people needed, and that certain persons displayed an arrogant attitude toward criticism by the people. A typical example cited was that of Andrea Ballani, head of the Himare people's council, who stifled by threats just criticism by the people.

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Rapo Dervishi noted that criticism was not sufficiently utilized in the selection of people's councils. He emphasized that men such as Dino Lico and Ali Sulejman, who did not represent the people's authority and did not enjoy the confidence of the masses, were selected. He said that party organizations must fight with all their strength for the selection of better men, and that men must be chosen who merit the confidence of the people and are able to lead them toward building socialism.(1)

Fier Rreth

The active of the Fier Rreth Party Committee met early in May. It discussed the resolutions of the Second Party Congress presented by Manush Myftiu, the delegate of the central committee.

A series of economic successes were achieved by the workers of Fier Rreth. For example, Clirimi State Farm obtained 15 quintals of cotton per hectare in 1951. Good results in cotton production were likewise achieved by the agricultural collective of Libofshe. One progressive farmer succeeded in obtaining 21 quintals of cotton per hectare.

However, the active noted weakness in the party's work direction in villages. Many primary party organizations did not know how to direct the party's political and economic work in the village; they were unable to organize the masses.

Sadik Troka, secretary of the primary party organization in Kafaranj, mentioned in his discussion that the primary party organization did not know that it should depend on the active support of nonparty members for its work. Thus he himself had been obliged to go from one village to another on various economic problems, thereby neglecting the supervision of primary party organization. This was one reason for the weak economic results in the village, directed by the primary party organization. Another reason was the insufficient assistance given by the rreth party committee in the selection of problems to be put before the primary party organization.

The active criticized the weak direction of party work by some primary party organization secretaries, including secretaries of primary party organizations of Krape and Reres-Amarak.

The bureau and the party committee of the rreth were also criticized for weakness in party work. They were said to be too preoccupied with little things while neglecting the most important problem, that of supervising party work. The party committee, it was noted, had not strengthened party work in the village. The functions of the people's councils and of mass organizations had not been studied as they should have been. Furthermore, the party heads in the rreth had not profited by the experience of the primary party organizations.

Due to the fact that Fier Rreth is one of the most important agricultural sections of the country, the active emphasized the great necessity of increasing the assistance given by the party committee to the primary party organizations.

The active likewise criticized the party committee bureau of Fier Rreth for failing to raise the ideological and professional level of instructors, who were an important means of guidance for primary party organizations.

The building of socialist bases in the villages will be achieved not by peaceful means but by continual and harsh war on the classes. Such class warfare, the active said, had not developed properly in the rreth. The active

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criticized in a harsh manner the soft policy of certain Communists and primary party organizations toward kulaks and also toward those party members who have weakened class warfare in the villages.

The kulaks, the active noted, would strive to hinder the party in the villages. Therefore, the primary party organizations should strengthen their alliance with the medium peasants to continue the class warfare. This war should be conducted on the ideological, economic, and political levels, to do away with the bourgeoisie.

Revival of mass organizations and people's councils, creation of a broad active of nonparty people, and improvement of party methods in directing village problems were urged for fulfillment of the duties which the Second Party Congress laid out.(2)

Durres Rreth

The active of the Durres Rreth Party Committee met at the beginning of May. Josif Pashko, secretary of the central committee, presented the resolutions of the Second Party Congress.

The active noted that workers had achieved good results in Durres Rreth toward fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan. Forty-six enterprises pledged greater production in honor of the Second Party Congress. There were 1,866 Stakhanovites and leading workers in the rreth and dozens of innovators. In addition, Soviet methods were introduced. The Durres Rreth Party Committee improved work and methods for strengthening the association with the nonparty masses. However, the active noted that the work of the party organization in strengthening the bond with the masses was still weak, especially in the village.

Nouda Baka stressed that primary party organizations were lax in elevating the ideological and political level of Communists. There were men who did not work toward the abolishment of illiteracy, and who did not read newspapers. The active stated that both the primary party organizations and the party committee bureau were to blame.

Niko Shuli, first secretary of the rreth youth committee, said that members of party youth organizations such as Halil Kaja of Kryevidhe, as well as primary party organizations, had not helped in the organization of youth. He noted that in the villages of Vlasha and Flake there were as yet no youth organizations, and that the primary party organizations of these villages were to blame for this situation.

On the other hand, he added, the primary party organization of the Ura state enterprise was in closer contact with the masses. Approximately 234 rationalizations were made there. The primary party organization was found to be well organized. In its meetings it often discussed the work of the youth and of the union committee.

The active said that encouragement of progressive initiative and practical application of the party line had not been on a desired level in the economic enterprises of Durres Rreth.

The active noted the necessity for strengthening the bond with the masses because in this manner the organization of the party would be strengthened.

Josif Pashko concluded by saying that it was essential to encourage progressive methods, to develop socialist competition, and to bring the city closer to the village. Finally, he stated, more young men and women should go into villages and work with the farmers by giving them concrete help.(3)

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Lushnje Rreth

Minutes of 1952 meetings of primary party organizations of Rrapeze, Bitaj, Kolonje, and Ardenice were read at a meeting of the Lushnje Rreth Party Committee. The minutes were all accepted. At their meetings, the primary party organizations had raised important problems, such as preparation for spring planting, combating illiteracy, and party discipline. However, these important matters had not been discussed from the proper point of view.

At the 16 January meeting of the primary party organizations there had been no mention of political work among the masses. This was true also of the 26 January meeting, where many generalized decisions were made but no concrete steps were taken for party organization. The Council of Ministers and the Central Committee had decreed that personnel be recruited for collective working of the land, that agitator's collectives be activated, and that means of visual agitation, such as banners, honor tables, and graphs, be used. But at the 12 March meeting it was seen that nothing had been done in this direction. Another 43 days passed and steps for Communist political work among the masses were still not taken.

All this occurred because the members of this organization, by concerning themselves with a number of economic matters, were not in a position to concentrate on their primary problems nor to combine economic problems with political work. This is one of the most important factors in achieving success in economic problems, and in educating and mobilizing villagers to follow the party line and the verdicts and orders of the government. All this occurred because the members of this organization did not organize the masses and monopolized all work in their own hands.

One of the most important problems which the Second Party Congress discussed was the strengthening and democratizing of the people's councils. However, the primary party organization responsible for Rrapeze, Bitaj, Kolonje, and Ardenice had not shown any care in this problem of party union with the masses. Therefore, the people's councils of these villages were very weak.

Furthermore, the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee decreed that spring cotton sowing was to be completed by 15 May. However, as of 7 May work was behind in the village of Rrapeze, home of the secretary of the primary party organization. The first plowing was 80 percent completed, the second 32 percent, and the third much lower. Only 40 percent of the land was sown. This situation resulted because the Communists failed to fight the erroneous and backward attitude of some farmers.

In contrast, the work of the villagers of Bishqethun and Lumth, located a few kilometers from Rrapeze, was different. The primary party organization analyzed the work of the people's councils and harshly criticized Communist members who failed to perform their duties. The people's councils of these villages met regularly, decreed work plans, and gave a monthly account to the people who elected them. As a result, by 7 May the first plowing for cotton was fulfilled 100 percent, the second plowing 98 percent, the third plowing 85 percent, and sowing of cotton 71 percent. The example of these organizations should be of value to the villages of Rrapeze, Bitaj, Kolonje, and Ardenice.(4)

Shkoder Rreth

Primary party organization secretaries, leaders of people's councils, secretaries of youth organizations, and outstanding farmers participated in a conference held by the economic active of Shkoder at the end of May 1952. Xhavit Qesja, first secretary of the party committee for Shkoder Rreth, emphasized

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that the populace of the rrreth had fulfilled the 1951 plan in reaping, threshing, and crop collection. The collection plan had been fulfilled 103 percent.

However, the active declared that a series of defects and serious weaknesses had been noted in the organization of political and agitation work in reaping, threshing, and collection during 1951. Consequently, the collection of wheat was over a month late. Primary party organizations, in particular those of Gradec, Pjetroschan, Dajc, Juban, and Vukatane, underestimated the value of organization of the masses. The party committee and its apparatus did not lead the agricultural campaign. Vehbi Canga, leader of the agitation and propaganda section of the party committee, declared that no attention had been paid to agitators' seminars in 1951. The agitation and propaganda section, he continued, was preoccupied with technical matters, such as schedules, graphs, honor tables, and banners, which were the responsibility of the Democratic Front organizations. Furthermore, the bureau of the party committee met frequently to analyze the progress of reaping, threshing, and crop collection, but devoted little attention to political education of the masses.

The economic active also criticized the executive committee of the people's council of the rrreth, which did not properly direct the 1951 campaign.

The active declared that mistakes of 1951 should not be repeated and that preventive measures should be taken.(5)

SOURCES

1. Zeri i Popullit, 7 May 52
2. Ibid., 10 May 52
3. Ibid., 11 May 52
4. Ibid., 14 May 52
5. Ibid., 30 May 52

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